



House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

April 27, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am writing to express my dismay with the Army's recent decision to withdraw its invitation to evangelical leader Franklin Graham.

Franklin Graham had been scheduled to participate in the Pentagon's special prayer service as part of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. However, the Army withdrew Graham's invitation because of his views on Islam and his clear articulation of a Christian perspective.

According to Army spokesman, Col. Thomas Collins, Graham's remarks were "not appropriate. We're an all-inclusive military. We honor all faiths. ... Our message to our service and civilian work force is about the need for diversity and appreciation of all faiths."

The Army's all-inclusive stance should create ample space for Franklin Graham's articulation of an orthodox, evangelical Christian perspective. Graham has indicated his love, respect, and best wishes for the Muslim *people* but has indicated his serious disagreement with key aspects of the content of their *belief*.

I agree that all *people* are equal under law; I believe we should have vibrant discussions regarding the merits and weaknesses of our various *beliefs*. The Constitution and First Amendment protects our freedoms of religion and expression—even our freedom to clearly articulate unpopular views.

The Army should reconsider its decision and alter its policy to allow Franklin Graham's participation the Pentagon's prayer service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bob Inglis

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